

In the Claims:

This list of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended): A coating fluid for forming a coating on a support for use in inkjet printing, said fluid comprising a liquid medium having dispersed therein (a) an inorganic oxide selected from the group consisting of aluminium oxide and silica, (b) a binder polymer, and (c) a polymeric crosslinking agent containing functional groups for reaction with the inorganic oxide, wherein the relative amount of inorganic oxide to binder polymer is from 50:1 to 2:1, the amount being by weight on a dry basis.
2. (original): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the components (a), (b) and (c) are dispersed in an aqueous liquid.
3. (original): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the binder polymer is polyvinyl alcohol.
4. (currently amended): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of inorganic oxide to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 500: 1 to 15:1 ~~preferably 250:1 to 20:1, the relative amount of inorganic oxide to binder polymer is from 50:1 to 2:1 preferably 20:1 to 4:1~~ and the relative amount of binder polymer to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 40:1 to 2:1 ~~preferably from 20:1 to 3:1~~, the amounts being by weight on a dry basis.
5. (original): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric crosslinking agent has the structure:
polymer-----A-----Si(OR)₃ where
A is optional and when present is a linking group containing not more than 12 carbon atoms, R is hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbon group containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and the polymer is selected so that the crosslinking agent is dispersible in water.

6. (currently amended): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric crosslinking agent has been obtained by the partial hydrolysis of a protein to render it water dispersible and ~~reaction with~~ where the protein has a silane containing functional groups for the cross linking of the inorganic oxide.
7. (currently amended): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the functional groups in the cross linking agent are capable of reacting with hydroxyl groups on the inorganic oxide to form in the case of alumina Si-O-Al bonds or in the case of silica Si-O-Si bonds.
8. (original): A process for the preparation of a coated support for use as an ink absorbing substrate in inkjet printing which process comprises applying to the support a coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 and causing the crosslinking agent to react with the inorganic oxide.
9. (original): A coated support for use in ink jet printing said support having a coating formed by the application to the support of a coating fluid as claimed in claim 1.
10. (new): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of inorganic oxide to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 500:1 to 15:1, the amount being by weight on a dry basis.
11. (new): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of binder polymer to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 40:1 to 2:1, the amount being by weight on a dry basis.
12. (new): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of inorganic oxide to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 250:1 to 20:1, the amount being by weight on a dry basis.
13. (new): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of inorganic oxide to binder polymer is from 20:1 to 4:1, the amount being by weight on a dry basis.

14. (new): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of binder polymer to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 20:1 to 3:1, the amount being by weight on a dry basis.

15. (new): A coating fluid as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative amount of inorganic oxide to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 250:1 to 20:1, the relative amount of inorganic oxide to binder polymer is from 20:1 to 4:1 and the relative amount of binder polymer to polymeric crosslinking agent is from 20:1 to 3:1, the amounts being by weight on a dry basis.